Historic buildings P13

Cooper Union Museum Library

91

The New Library of Congress in Washington

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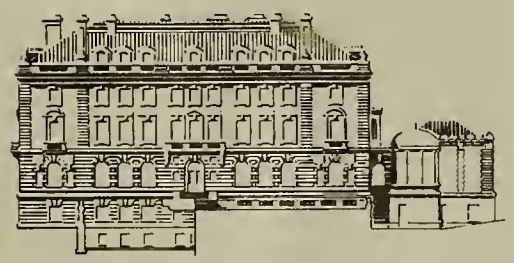
Cooper-Hewitt Museum Library



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THE NEW

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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THE new **Library of Congress**, while the most perfectly arranged for the use and storage of books of any public library in the world, is also the largest, costliest and the safest. It takes first rank to-day among our public buildings and has excited the widest popular interest, particularly through the magnificent mural and sculptural decorations with which its architecture is lavishly enriched, and which form the best existent record of the scope and capabilities of American art.

In the main, the Library is, both inside and out, in the style of the Italian Renaissance. It is situated on Capitol Hill, diagonally across from the Capitol, and faces exactly west. From north to south, the building measures 470 feet, and west to east 340 feet, occupying, exclusive of approaches, three and three-quarters acres. A great rectangle encloses a cross dividing the open space into four courts, centered by an octagon which contains the main reading room or rotunda. The total floor space, exclusive of the cellar, is 326,195 square feet, or nearly eight acres. The cost has been kept well within bounds and has not exceeded $6,360,000.

At the west, or main entrance, a flight of granite steps leads to a central landing, whence another flight ascends to the Entrance Porch, with three arches and massive relief bronze doors. These represent Tradition, Writing and Printing. Passing through either of these bronze doors, the Main Entrance Hall is reached. It is constructed of gleaming white Italian marble, flanked by two richly sculptured staircases, and rises the height of three stories, occupying nearly the whole of the West, or Entrance Pavilion. The first floor is surrounded by corridors with beautiful vaulted ceilings of marble mosaic. The second floor is supported by paired marble columns, and its ceilings are decorated in a high Pompeian key appropriate to their great distance from the floor. In the rotunda, the centre of the structure, a broad scheme of color and of ornamentation in stucco relief unite with a lofty architectural design.

The corner pavilions of both floors contain octagonal rooms, which, in the second story, have domed ceilings and mosaic floors, and are rich with paintings and relief stucco. Between these second story pavilions run long galleries, intended chiefly for the display of copyrighted works of art, of rare books and manuscripts. of maps, engravings, etchings, photograps, etchings, photographs, etc. Some of the notable mural paintings fill the tympanums of these galleries. The first floor wings contain the special reading rooms, notably those of the House and the Senate, to which lead splendid corridors with series of panel paintings of mythological subjects.

Nearly all of the interior exhibits a wealth of decoration, paintings, mosaics, stucco reliefs and sculpture, which to describe in detail exceeds the purpose of this album. The photo-gravures contained herein will serve the visitor as an accurate and artistic memento of this monumental building, the library and pride of the whole American people.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

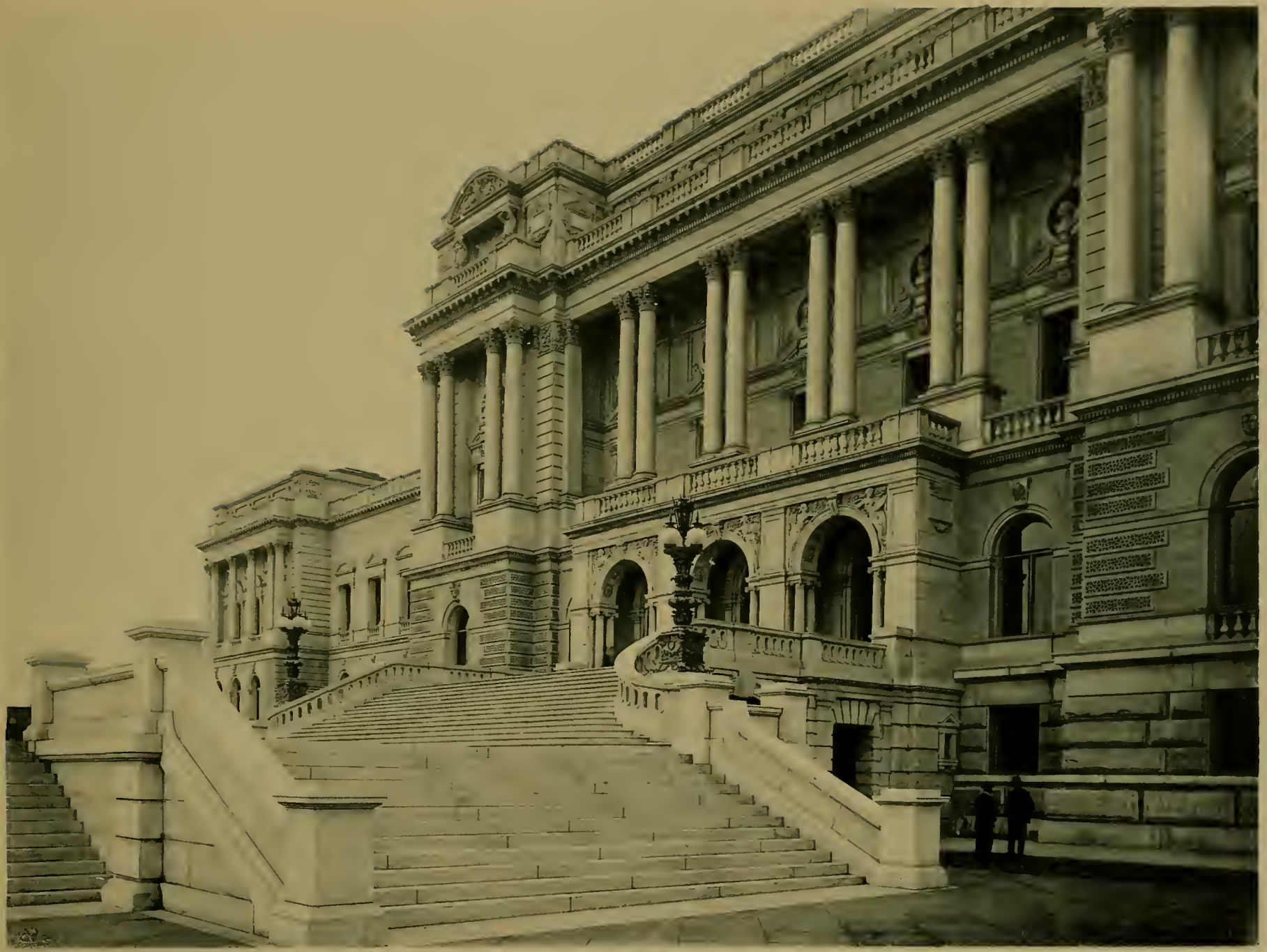
PORTICO AND BRONZE DOOR "IMAGINATION AND MEMORY" (By Olin L. Warner)

SOUTH STAIRCASE - MAIN ENTRANCE HALL.

THE NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN.

CORRIDOR OF THE SPECIAL READING ROOMS

THE COMMONWEALTH ARCH AND UPPER STAIRCASE.



THE ENTRANCE PAVILION AND STAIRCASE.

Orpheus by W. McEwen.

Paris and Helen.

CORRIDOR OF THE HOUSE READING ROOM—S. W. WING.

WEST CORRIDOR AND WELL—SECOND STORY.

The Cairn. Oral Tradition (Paintings by John W. Alexander.)

EAST CORRIDOR AND MOSAIC VAULT—MAIN ENTRANCE HALL.

NORTHWEST GALLERY—"Peace" by Gari Melchers.

SOUTH-WEST GALLERY—THE "SCIENCES" By Kenyon Cox.

NORTH-WEST GALLERY—"WAR" By Gari Melchers.

MACMONNIES' BRONZE DOOR "Minerva diffusing the products of Typographical Art"

UPPER STAIRCASE—MOSAIC "MINERVA" By Elihu Vedder

Statues of St. Paul and Fulton.

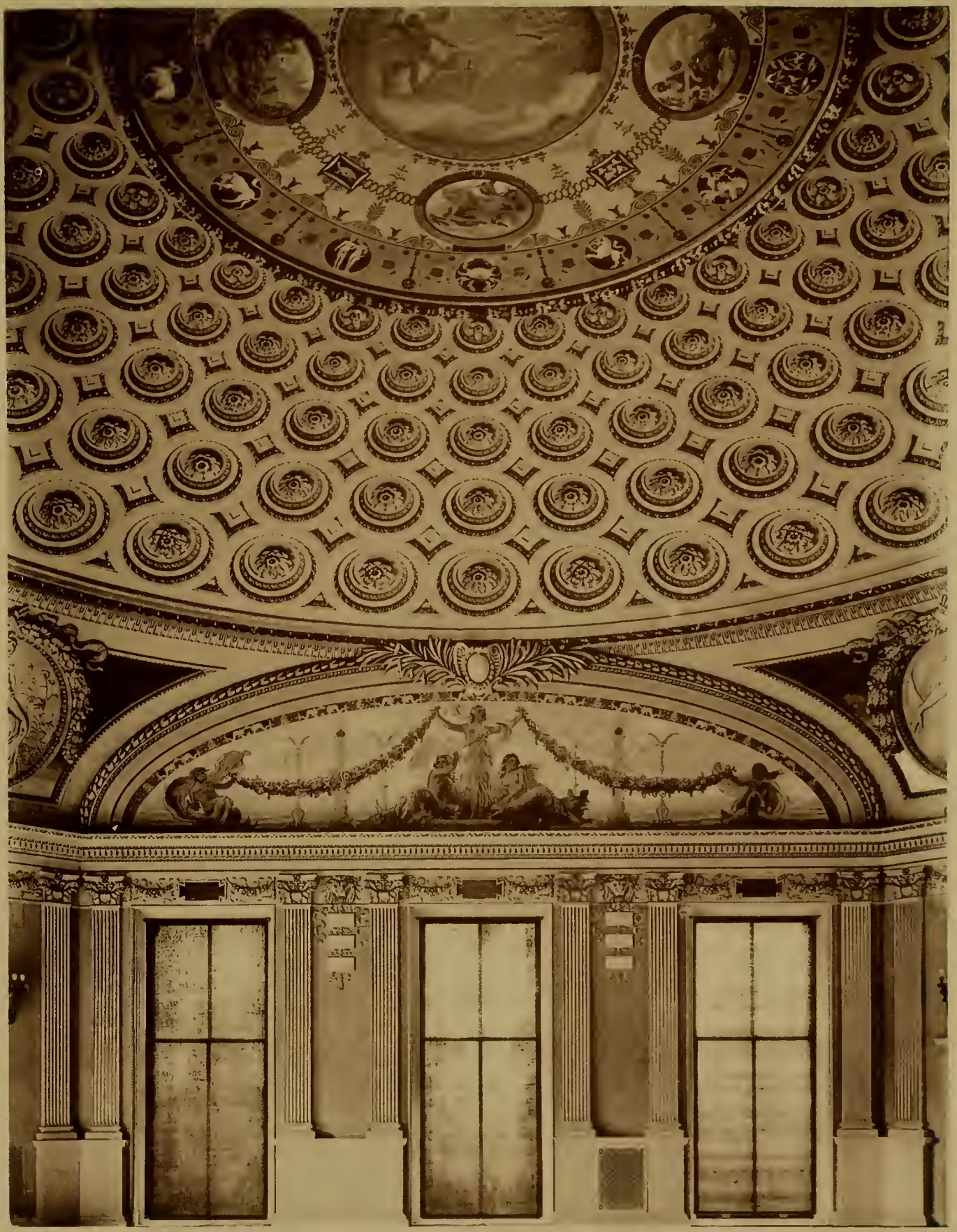
GALLERY OF THE ROTUNDA

THE ROTUNDA.

COURT VIEW.

A PIER, ARCH AND PENDENTIVE OF THE ROTUNDA.

Statue of Art and Statue of Beethoven.



SOUTH EAST PAVILION (PAVILION OF THE ELEMENTS)

"Water" and Central Disc "Apollo" by R. L. Dodge

THE NORTH CORRIDOR AND MOSAIC VAULT—MAIN ENTRANCE HALL

Pierce's Tympanum: 'The Family.'

MANTEL AND DIELMANN'S MOSAIC "LAW"—HOUSE READING ROOM.

THE SOUTH-WEST PAVILION (PAVILION OF THE DISCOVERERS)

"Civilization" by George W Maynard.

MANTEL AND DIELMANN'S MOSAIC "HISTORY"

House Reading Room.

NORTHWEST PAVILION (PAVILION OF ART AND SCIENCE)

"Art" by W. de L. Dodge.

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